

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: W/W: ARREST & DETENTION: PRISON VISITS BY MEMBERS  
OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MEXICO

1. TWO CONSULAR OFFICERS MET MARCH 13 WITH MEMBERS OF THE SALVATION ARMY, EMBASSY WIVES, AND MEMBERS OF VARIOUS MEXICAN CHURCH AND MISSIONARY GROUPS WHO PERFORM VARIOUS SERVICES FOR THE AMERICAN PRISONERS AT LECUMBERRY AND LOS RYES. THE GROUP TOTALS APPROXIMATELY 20. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO COORDINATE THE PRISON VISITS AND SERVICES PERFORMED BY EACH GROUP.

2. THE SALVATION ARMY UNIFORMED MEMBERS VISIT LOS REYES WEEKLY, TAKING FOOD, CLOTHING AND READING MATERIAL TO THE AMERICAN WOMEN. THE AUXILIARY GROUP, WHICH ALSO VISITS WEEKLY, HAS FORMED A SPANISH CLASS FOR THOSE FEW PRISONERS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN LEARNING THE LANGUAGE NINE OF THE 43 INMATES. THEY ALSO TAKE FOOD AND CLOTHING TO THE INMATES AND SHOP FOR THEM. ONE MEMBER OF THE AUXILIARY GROUP GIVES WEEKLY GUITAR CLASSES, ALTHOUGH SHE ADMITS THAT THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN MINIMAL.

3. CHURCH AND MISSIONARY GROUPS MAKE INDEPENDENT VISITS ABOUT NINE TIMES A MONTH TO LOS RYES. THEY DO PERSONAL SHOPPING, CONTACT LOCAL ATTORNEYS AND CALL FAMILIES IN THE US. THEY HAVE, ON OCCASION, SOLD PAINTINGS AND OTHER ART WORKS FOR SOME OF THE PRISONERS. THEY HAVE ALSO GIVEN  
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THE WOMEN COSMETICS, MATERIALS FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS, TENNIS

BALLS AND RACQUETS, COOKIES AND CANDIES, ALL DONATED BY WOMEN OF THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY.

4. ONE MISSIONARY, WHO VISITS LECUMBERRI THREE TIMES A WEEK, COLLECTS SOCKS, SHIRTS AND UNDERWEAR FOR THE AMERICAN MEN IN BLOCKS "E", "F", AND "O". SHE ALSO PURCHASES LAMP PARTS FOR LAMP BASES WHICH SOME OF THE PRISONERS ARE MAKING AND HAS FOUND OUTLETS FOR SALE OF THE FINISHED PRODUCT. LISTED AS "PRIORITIES" ON THE GROCERY SHOPPING LIST GIVEN TO THE MISSIONARY WERE PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, POTATO CHIPS AND AMERICAN CHEESE.

5. ALTHOUGH THESE GROUPS MAKE APPROXIMATELY 20 PRISON VISITS A MONTH, THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES HAVE NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED TO CONSULAR OFFICERS THAT SUCH VISITS OCCUR. TO THE CONTRARY, THE PRISONERS COMPLAIN CONSTANTLY ABOUT THEIR ISOLATION AND THAT THEY, UNLIKE THEIR MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS, WHO HAVE FAMILIES HERE, HAVE NO ONE TO ATTEND TO THEIR PERSONAL NEEDS.

6. THE CONSULAR OFFICERS SUGGESTED THAT, IN VIEW OF THE PRESSING NEED FOR VITAMINS AT LOS REYES AND LECUMBERRI THAT PERHAPS THE GROUP MIGHT CONTACT LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS ASKING FOR DONATIONS FOR VITAMINS. (THE FOLLOWING DAY A CHURCH MEMBER REPORTED THAT MILES LABORATORY, S.A. DONATED SEVENTY BOTTLES OF MULTI-PURPOSE VITAMINS.) THE GROUP WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS TO VISIT LECUMBERRY AS THE SCHEDULE THERE HAS BECOME TOO DIFFICULT FOR ONE PERSON TO HANDLE.

7. IT WAS REPORTED AT THE MEETING THAT MRS. ELENA SHIRAH, MOTHER OF ANNELE HAAPALA, CALLED A SALVATION ARMY MEMBER ON MARCH 12 AND ASKED THAT SHE TELL HER DAUGHTER AND THE OTHER AMERICAN WOMEN AT LOS REYES TO 'UNPACK THEIR BAGS' AS SHE HAD LEARNED FROM SENATOR MANSFIELD THAT THE REPORTS SUBMITTED TO REPRESENTATIVE STARK'S OFFICE WERE UNFOUNDED.

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